



A DAY OF REMEMBRANCE

Today, on Memorial Day, we honor the men and women who made the ultimate sacrifice.

A FEW PM STORMS
High: 83
Low: 68
30% chance of rain



Tuesday: Few storms, 75/67
Wednesday: Storms, 79/66
Thursday: Few storms, 83/66

Complete weather: B6

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution

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AJC TOP STORY: CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

STATE BUDGET

State workers face job, pay cuts

Impact varies by agency, but tens of thousands will probably be affected.

By James Salzer
jsalzer@ajc.com

They teach philosophy and math, counsel college students, help run campuses, tend to the grounds of state facilities, enforce standards for police officers, keep farmers

markets open, staff efforts to help addicts and the mentally ill, do farm work for agriculture research sites and investigate possible tax fraud.

And they're all in jobs that could be eliminated under budget cut plans submitted last week to meet the state's goal of slashing budgets 14% because of the revenue decline brought on by the coronavirus recession.

More than 1,000 people in jobs – some part-time, many full-time – would see

their livelihoods vanish at a time of record unemployment.

The tsunami of unemployment swept over Georgia when businesses closed because of the pandemic. But many of the state employees would lose their jobs at a time when the need for government services will increase.

Additionally, tens of thousands of state employees who keep their jobs would see

Cuts continued on A6

CORONAVIRUS DEATH

Boy, 17, is state's youngest victim

DPH notes Fulton County teenager had a preexisting issue.

By J. Scott Trubey
strubey@ajc.com

A 17-year-old Fulton County boy has died from complications of COVID-19, a state official said Sunday. He is the youngest known fatality in Georgia connected to the novel coronavirus.

The virus, which has killed more than 1,820 people in Georgia, is typically more severe in adults than in children.

The teen was not identified, but he is listed on the Georgia Department of Public Health website as having had a preexisting condition. Nancy Nydam, a spokeswoman for DPH, confirmed the death. No other information about the teen was immediately available.

Before Sunday, the youngest person known to have died in Georgia with a link to the disease was a 22-year-old woman from Muscogee County.

Children typically have mild symptoms of COVID-19 or may not have symptoms at all. In recent weeks, state health officials have warned about an inflammatory condition in children that is suspected to be linked to the virus.

Staff writer Helena Oliviero contributed to this report.

MEMORIAL DAY

Memorial Day observances move to online settings

Public events such as wreath-laying ceremonies are off this year.



Cub Scouts Pack 625 members Guy Stearns (from left), Collin Mervis, Robert Walker and Jamison Kind social-distance around the American flag while performing the Pledge of Allegiance and being filmed for a virtual Memorial Day ceremony at the Woodstock City Council Chambers on Tuesday. CURTIS COMPTON / CCOMPTON@AJC.COM

By Jeremy Redmon
jredmon@ajc.com

Raymond Dodson's battle with the coronavirus disease began back in February with a persistent dry cough. In the ensuing weeks, the Woodstock resident ran a fever, suffered from dizzy spells and had trouble communicating with his wife, Penny.

Northside Hospital Cherokee in Canton admitted him in late March and diagnosed him with COVID-19. Hooked up to a ventilator, Dodson lost more than 30 pounds as he fought for his life. It did not look good for the 73-year-old Vietnam War veteran. But Dodson pulled through, finally emerging from a nurs-

ing home in April.

Flanked by uniformed policemen, Dodson recently set aside his walker and placed a red, white and blue wreath at Woodstock's memorial to veterans. The city filmed the event for a virtual Memorial Day ceremony that will air online today. In the video, doves will be released and 2019 Miss Georgia Victoria Hill will sing "The Star-Spangled Banner."

"I had policemen on each side in case I started wobbling," said Dodson, whose late father, Joseph, served in the U.S. Army and as a Woodstock fire chief. "It just meant a lot to me because my daddy was in World War II. He always

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Above: Raymond Dodson of Woodstock served with the U.S. Air Force in Vietnam in 1968.

Left: Dodson also served in Turkey. He was part of a wreath-laying ceremony that will air online today.

VETERANS

Surviving war, only to die suffering

Woeful staffing at facility dedicated to veterans results in virus's unchecked spread.

Ellen Barry
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HOLYOKE, MASS. — In 1945, James Leach Miller returned from the war and said nothing.

He said nothing about it to his wife, not for 64 years of marriage. He folded up his Army uniform, with the medals

still pinned to it, and put it in the basement, where his older boy would sometimes take it out to play soldiers.

He joined the fire department. He went to church on Sundays. He never complained.

"That generation, they didn't air their problems," said his younger son, Michael Miller. "He would say, 'It was not a good time. I've had better times.' He would not embellish."

James Miller was already in his 70s when he began to tell Michael Miller, an Air Force flight engineer, little bits about

landing on Omaha Beach on D-Day.

"Fragments would come out," his son said.

Michael Miller once offered to take him back to Normandy – World War II veterans were making the journey – but his father shook his head and said, "I've been there once."

This story comes up for a reason. James Miller, 96, who survived what was for Americans the bloodiest battle of World War II, died of complications from the

Veterans continued on A8

RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Places of worship split on reopening

Some assemblies prefer to keep with cautious approach.

By Shelia M. Poole
spoole@ajc.com

The Rev. Richard B. Haynes, pastor of Salem Missionary Baptist Church, is in no hurry to bring worshippers back into his Lilburn church.

"It's a virus we don't understand," Haynes said of the coronavirus pandemic. "We don't have the answers. I think it would be wise to find out what we're up against before we start trying to figure out how we can navigate around it. Our virtual service has been working quite well."

He's among many Georgia pastors who are still considering when it's safe to bring congregants back.

Gov. Brian Kemp has wrestled with banning in-person religious services and hasn't ordered churches to close during

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